



**Children's Services
Division of Community
Services**



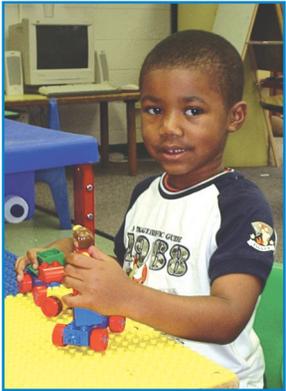
Mission Statement

To develop partnerships that promote quality opportunities for children's educational readiness at all levels of ability, and to foster success for families and staff.

Head Start Program

The Head Start program has a long tradition of delivering comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income children. To date, Head State has served a total of 21,214,295 children since it began in 1965.

Head Start provides a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; and parent involvement. In addition, the entire range of Head Start services is responsive and appropriate to each child and family's developmental, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience.



Making a Difference

Head Start has made dramatic progress toward developing an outcome-oriented accountability system, which can be used to determine the quality and effectiveness of the program. Based on the ultimate goal of Head Start - to promote the social competence and school readiness of children - performance measures chart outcomes in:



- ✓ Enhancing children's healthy growth and development
- ✓ Strengthening families as the primary nurturers of their children
- ✓ Providing children with educational, health, nutritional and psychological services
- ✓ Linking children and families to needed community services, and
- ✓ Ensuring well-managed programs that involve parents in decision-making.

York County's Head Start program is a three-time winner of the National Association of Counties (NACo) award for exemplary program practices.

Additional Resources

For information on enrolling your child, call 757-890-3888. Children must meet eligibility requirements.

- ✓ USDA approved breakfast and lunch
- ✓ Individual and family counseling
- ✓ Parent training and workshops
- ✓ Child care subsidies
- ✓ Home visits
- ✓ Kindergarten transition
- ✓ Literacy programs
- ✓ Adult computer learning center
- ✓ Resource and referral information
- ✓ Inclusive classrooms for children with disabilities
- ✓ Early childhood development program for infants and toddlers through a collaboration with Child
- ✓ Development Resources/First Steps. Call the York County Head Start Hotline (757-890-3222) for parenting information and tips.



How You Can Help

The Children's Services division relies heavily on the support of the community. In fact, in order to be eligible for federal funding, all programs must commit to a certain level of financial support from the community.

You can help by:

- ✓ Mentoring/tutoring a parent
- ✓ Reading in a classroom
- ✓ Contributing toward child care scholarships
- ✓ Adopting a family during the holidays
- ✓ Assisting with special events and fundraising activities
- ✓ Assisting with program evaluation.
- ✓ Working with children who require additional assistance.

This program is accredited through NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). NAEYC accreditation is a tool for raising the quality of early childhood education. It provides a process through which early childhood professionals and families can evaluate programs, compare them with professional standards, strengthen the program, and commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement. Accreditation is contingent upon demonstrated compliance with the Association's criteria - the current consensus of the early childhood profession as to what makes a high quality program for young children.



[www.yorkcounty.gov/
comser/childsvc/kids](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/comser/childsvc/kids)

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